

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-39. (Canceled)

40. (New) A nozzle for attachment to a dispenser for dispensing material, the nozzle comprising:

- a) a fitting at a first end to facilitate attachment to the dispenser;
- b) an opening at a second end opposite the first end through which material is dispensed, a center of the opening being located along a central axis of the nozzle, the fitting being wider than the opening, the opening defining a periphery having a lateral width dimension and a height dimension, the opening further comprising arcuate and concave surfaces at widthwise opposite ends that remain of fixed dimension to define an oval periphery, the lateral width dimension substantially exceeding twice the height dimension of the opening, the opening having a linear edge profile along the lateral width dimension of the periphery when the opening is viewed from the side of the nozzle, the linear edge profile defined at a constant distance from the first end along a central axis of the nozzle; and
- c) a forwardly-projecting side wall tapering from the first end to the opening, the side wall having a peripheral outer surface defined by a concave surface that transitions into a convex surface that terminates at the opening;
- d) a cap for covering the nozzle during periods of non-use, a portion of the cap extending around the opening and a portion of the cap extending into the opening for plugging the opening;
- e) wherein the side wall further comprises an upper wall and a lower wall, each of the upper and lower walls comprising a portion of the peripheral outer surface such that each of the upper and lower walls comprises a concave surface that transitions into a convex surface terminating at the opening,
- f) whereby a substantially constant layer of material is dispensed through the opening and having a width of the opening.

41. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 40, wherein the height dimension remains substantially constant throughout the lateral width extent of the opening.
42. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 40, wherein the fitting is threaded.
43. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 40, further comprising a compressible dispenser attached to the nozzle.
44. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 40, wherein the convex surface of the upper wall has a curvature that is substantially the same as that of the convex surface of the lower wall.
45. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 44, wherein the concave surface of the upper wall has a curvature that is substantially the same as that of the concave surface of the lower wall.
46. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 40, wherein the forwardly-projecting side wall tapers gradually from the first end to the opening.
47. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 40, wherein the forwardly-projecting side wall is configured to funnel dispensed material from the first end to the opening along a sloped path.
48. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 40, wherein the distance from the opening to the first end exceeds a thickness of the fitting.
49. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 40, wherein the thickness of the cap exceeds the thickness of the fitting.
50. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 40, wherein the forwardly-projecting side wall further comprises a first region adjacent the first end and a second region adjacent the opening, the first region further comprising a first curved portion, the second region further comprising a second curved portion, the first curved portion having a radius of curvature that is greater than that of the second curved portion.
51. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 40, wherein the distance between the upper wall and lower wall varies along a central axis of the nozzle.
52. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 51, wherein the distance between the upper wall and lower wall is greater adjacent the first end than the opening.

53. (New) A nozzle for attachment to a dispenser for dispensing material, the nozzle comprising:

- a) a fitting at a first end to facilitate attachment to the dispenser;
- b) an opening at a second end opposite the first end through which material is dispensed, the fitting being wider than the opening, the opening defining a periphery having a lateral width dimension and a height dimension, the opening further comprising arcuate and concave surfaces at widthwise opposite ends that remain of fixed dimension to define an oval periphery, the lateral width dimension substantially exceeding twice the height dimension of the opening, the opening having a linear edge profile along the lateral width dimension of the periphery when the opening is viewed from the side of the nozzle, the linear edge profile defined at a constant distance from the first end along a central axis of the nozzle; and
- c) a forwardly-projecting side wall extending from the first end to the opening, the side wall having a peripheral outer surface defined by a concave surface that transitions into a convex surface that terminates at the opening;
- d) wherein the side wall further comprises an upper wall and a lower wall, each of the upper and lower walls comprising a portion of the peripheral outer surface such that each of the upper and lower walls comprises a concave surface that transitions into a convex surface terminating at the opening,
- e) whereby a substantially constant layer of material is dispensed through the opening and having a width of the opening.

54. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 53, further comprising a cap for covering the nozzle during periods of non-use, a portion of the cap extending around the opening and a portion of the cap extending into the opening for plugging the opening.

55. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 53, a center of the opening being located along a central axis of the nozzle.

56. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 53, the forwardly-projecting side wall tapering from the first end to the opening.

57. (New) A nozzle for attachment to a dispenser for dispensing material, the nozzle comprising:

- a) a fitting at a first end to facilitate attachment to the dispenser;
- b) an opening at a second end opposite the first end through which material is dispensed, the fitting being wider than the opening, the opening defining a periphery having a lateral width dimension and a height dimension, the opening further comprising arcuate and concave surfaces at widthwise opposite ends that remain of fixed dimension to define an oval periphery, the lateral width dimension substantially exceeding twice the height dimension of the opening; and
- c) a forwardly-projecting side wall tapering from the first end to the opening, the side wall having a peripheral outer surface defined by a concave surface that transitions into a convex surface that terminates at the opening;
- d) wherein the side wall further comprises an upper wall and a lower wall, each of the upper and lower walls comprising a portion of the peripheral outer surface such that each of the upper and lower walls comprises a concave surface that transitions into a convex surface terminating at the opening,
- e) whereby a substantially constant layer of material is dispensed through the opening and having a width of the opening.

58. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 57, the opening having a linear edge profile along the lateral width dimension of the periphery when the opening is viewed from the side of the nozzle, the linear edge profile defined at a constant distance from the first end along a central axis of the nozzle.

59. (New) A nozzle in accordance with claim 57, a center of the opening being located along a central axis of the nozzle.

60. A nozzle in accordance with claim 57, further comprising a cap for covering the nozzle during periods of non-use, a portion of the cap extending around the opening and a portion of the cap extending into the opening for plugging the opening.